



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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March 3, 2016

Good Afternoon Chairpersons Gomes and Tercyak, ranking members and esteemed members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. My name is Edwin Vargas and I serve the City of Hartford as the Representative of the 6th Assembly District of Connecticut.

I am here today to voice my support for Raised Bill No. 5371, the "Better Jobs Act" and Raised Bill No. 5378, a bill which makes technical fixes to the state Standard Wage law.

Bill No. 5378 would make a number of fixes to the Standard Wage Law. When taken together, these fixes would ensure that building service workers on state contracts continue to be meaningfully protected by the Standard Wage law. Many of the fixes that the law would make are already common practice, but this bill is needed in order to make these best practices the law. We need to continue to do our best to ensure that the men and women who keep our State buildings clean and who protect our State employees are adequately covered by the Standard Wage law so that they may continue to care for themselves and their families.

Bill No. 5371 or the “Better Jobs Act” is needed in order to ensure that Connecticut families benefit from full time jobs. In the City of Hartford, the district I proudly represent, building services are largely performed on a full-time basis. However, this is not the case in other major cities and counties throughout the State. In Fairfield County and New Haven it is the norm for building service work to be performed as part-time jobs. I’ve seen first-hand what full time jobs mean to my City and the impact that these kinds of jobs have on working families. Full-time work not only means more hours, more compensation, and more stability, it also means access to employer-provided health insurance as mandated by the Affordable Care Act and this is critical. I support this bill because I want the entire state of Connecticut to benefit from full time work too.

Thank you for your time here today and please do the right thing—vote in support of Bill Nos. 5371 and 5378.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed. Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a stylized "V".

Edwin Vargas